

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A specimen dispensing system comprising:

a plurality of conveyor lanes;

master specimen containers containing a specimen respectively disposed on each of the conveyor lanes;

a required number of empty slave specimen containers which are aligned only on the same conveyor lanes as a respective one of the master specimen containers and disposed behind the respective master specimen container;

conveying means cooperable with the conveyor lanes for conveying the master specimen containers and the empty slave specimen containers on the plurality of conveyor lanes, wherein the master and slave specimen containers are aligned before and behind each other only on the same conveyor lane in each of the conveyor lanes in a conveyance direction, and each specimen container is conveyed on the same conveyor lane so that the empty slave specimen container is conveyed behind the respective master specimen container;

dispensing means including a dispensing nozzle; and

stopping means for temporarily stopping the master and slave specimen containers when the master and slave specimen containers reach a position under the dispensing nozzle,

said dispensing means for removing the specimen from the master specimen containers by the dispensing nozzle when the master specimen containers are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle and dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers conveyed behind the respective master specimen container on the same conveyor lane

when the slave specimen containers are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle, wherein a controller moves the dispensing nozzle in a direction crossing the conveyor lanes.

2. (Previously Presented) The specimen dispensing system according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of said dispensing nozzles, wherein each of the dispensing nozzles dispenses the specimen to the slave specimen containers from the respective master specimen container on the conveyor lane concurrently with dispensing operations on other conveyor lanes.

3. (Canceled)